



Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety
Information

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Error in Measuring Body Weight Before Dialysis

Four cases have been reported in which an appropriate method was not used to measure a patient’s body weight before dialysis and dialysis was carried out based on the wrong weight (information collection period: from January 1, 2011 to November 30, 2016). The information is compiled based on “Individual Theme Review” in the 36th Quarterly Report.

Cases have been reported in which an appropriate method was not used to measure the patient’s body weight and dialysis was carried out based on the wrong weight, resulting in the removal of too much or too little fluid.

Result of Weighing	Difference from Actual Weight	Result of Dialysis	Background
Higher than actual weight	+6kg	Too much fluid removed	When using a lift scale, it should have been set at “-3kg” to take account of the weight of the stretcher sheets, but was actually set at “3kg.”
	+0.9kg		The patient was weighed while a staff member was touching the weighing element.
Lower than actual weight	-1.3kg	Too little fluid removed	The patient’s prosthetic leg was supposed to be included in their weight, but the nurse subtracted the weight of the prosthesis.
	-5.6kg		The bed with integrated weighing scale was supposed to be used with the rails and bed controller attached, but these were removed when transferring the patient onto the bed and were not re-attached before the patient was weighed.

Error in Measuring Body Weight Before Dialysis

Case 1

The patient was weighed in ICU and dialysis was carried out. The following day, the patient was again weighed in ICU and dialysis was carried out. On the third day, when the patient was weighed before dialysis in the dialysis room, the patient's weight was found to be lower than the target weight. This was queried with ICU, so the panel on ICU's lift scale was checked and staff found that, whereas it should have been set at "-3kg" to take account of the weight of the stretcher sheets, it had actually been set at "3kg." Accordingly, staff realized that the quantity of fluid for removal through dialysis had been calculated based on a weight that was 6kg too heavy, resulting in the removal of too much fluid.

Case 2

When carrying out dialysis, the patient's prosthetic leg was supposed to be included in their weight, but the nurse assumed that the weight of the patient's prosthesis should not be included. The nurse weighed the patient in a wheelchair while the patient was wearing their prosthetic leg. The nurse then weighed the wheelchair and the prosthetic leg and determined the patient's body weight by subtracting this figure from the first measurement. As a result, the body weight measurement was 1.3kg (the weight of the prosthesis) lower than it should have been. The quantity of fluid for removal through dialysis was calculated based on this body weight, so not enough fluid was removed and the patient required further dialysis the following day.

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- Staff will check the weighing scale's settings and conditions at the time of weighing when measuring body weight before dialysis.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

